

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (new) An annular seal member having a generally "j" shaped cross-section and comprising a first end portion having a first distal end, a generally curled second end portion that extends to a second distal end, and a central body portion between and contiguous with said first and said second end portions, said annular sealing member having a first side and an opposite second side, said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said seal member and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.

Claim 11 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 10 wherein the portion of the first end portion having said first distal end is slightly angulated in said first direction.

Claim 12 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 10 wherein said central body portion has a generally frustro-conical shape and has no inflection points.

Claim 13 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 10 wherein said annular seal member is metallic.

Claim 14 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 13 wherein said annular seal member is fabricated from a metal chosen from the group consisting of nickel super alloys and nickel cobalt alloys.

Claim 15 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 10 wherein said annular seal member has a degree of resiliency.

Claim 16 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 10 wherein said central body portion has a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end.

Claim 17 (new) An annular seal member comprising:

a first side and an opposite second side;

a generally frustro-conical central body portion having opposite ends;

a first end portion contiguous with one of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said first end portion having a first distal end;

a generally curled second end portion contiguous with the other of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said second end portion extending to a second distal end; and

said second end portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular seal member and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.

Claim 18 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 17 wherein the portion of said first end portion having said first distal end is slightly angulated in said first direction.

Claim 19 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 17 wherein said annular seal member is metallic.

Claim 20 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 19 wherein said annular seal member is fabricated from a metal chosen from the group consisting of nickel super alloys and nickel cobalt alloys.

Claim 21 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 17 wherein said annular seal member has a degree of resiliency.

Claim 22 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 17 wherein said generally frustro-conical central body portion has a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end.

Claim 23 (new) An annular seal member having a generally hook shaped cross-section, a first side and a second opposite side, said annular seal member comprising a first end portion having a first distal end, a generally curled second end portion that extends to a second distal end, and a central body portion between and contiguous with said first and said end portions, said second portion curling in a first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular seal member and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.

Claim 24 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 23 wherein the portion of said first end portion having said first distal end is slightly angulated in said first direction.

Claim 25 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 23 wherein said central body portion has a generally frustro-conical shape.

Claim 26 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 23 wherein said annular seal member is metallic.

Claim 27 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 26 wherein said annular seal member is fabricated from a metal chosen from the group consisting of nickel super alloys and nickel cobalt alloys.

Claim 28 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 23 wherein said annular seal member has a degree of resiliency.

Claim 29 (new) The annular seal member according to claim 23 wherein said central body portion has a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end.

Claim 30 (new) An annular metallic seal comprising:

a first side and an opposite second side;

a generally frustro-conical central body portion having opposite ends;

a first end portion contiguous with one of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said first end portion having a first distal end;

a curled second end portion contiguous with the other of said opposite ends of said generally frustro-conical central body portion, said second end portion extending to a second distal end;

said generally frustro-conical central body having a thickness that tapers in the direction of said first distal end;

said the first distal end being slightly angulated a first direction; and

said second end portion curling in said first direction in accordance with a predetermined radius such that said second distal end is located across from said first side of said annular metallic seal and said first and second distal ends do not face each other.